

Electors of Acton:

THANK YOU

FOR ELECTING ME COUNCILLOR FOR 1952. I WILL ENDEAVOR TO SERVE YOU TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.

ALF FRYER

Chronicles

Ginger Farm
Written Specially for the Acton Free Press by Gwendolise P. Clarke

What do people do with their spare time—that is, when it isn't Christmas—read, play cards, run around to dances, parties and shows? Yes, we know people do many of these things—some more, some less—but there are also plenty of folk who make use of their spare time to develop their own creative talent. And I believe their number is on the increase. At least that is my impression after visiting local bazaars, hobby shows, and, more recently, a sale of arts and crafts. It is also evident in the tremendous response in this district when night school classes were organized by the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of teaching art, leathercraft, sewing, woodwork and other forms of handicraft. Obviously, people like to work with their hands and their brains. Perhaps I should put it the other way round because a person must first use his brains before he can work with his hands.

Small town bazaars are more or less conservative in their set-up. The work that is contributed and the articles offered for sale are generally along the lines of knitting, crochet, fancy work, baking and candy, probably because these items are always sure of a ready sale. Church members responsible for all this fine work certainly wouldn't have much spare time left on their hands for idle amusement. Think of the number of work hours involved in such an undertaking! It must be colossal.

At hobby shows we find a greater variety of handicraft. Here there is work that has been adopted primarily as a hobby—craftsmen, both men and women, taking a delight in making something that is new and different, testing their own skill and ingenuity. Occasionally hobbies also develop into profitable sidelines. Someone once said—"Show me what a person does in his spare time and I can tell you what kind of a person he is." There is a lot of truth in that observation, isn't there? When there are so many creative pastimes to work at and to hold our interest surely none of us need be guilty of "Killing time."

Last Saturday I picked up two of our neighbours and took them to a sale of arts and crafts at a neighbouring town, cleverly timed to catch the Christmas gift-buying public. It was wonderful... but terribly hard to make a choice for the presents one wanted to buy. Pottery of all kinds—useful and ornamental. And as an added attraction there was a young lady artist from the Sovereign Potteries demonstrating free-hand painting on handsome pottery. It was fascinating to watch her at work. A few deft touches of the brush—and there was a water-lily in full bloom! There were also bowls, vases and ashtrays in natural terra-cotta clay, from soil taken straight from the nearby village of Terra Cotta. The streaky clay mixture looked something like marble cake, only pinky-white. Of course all the pottery was glazed and baked and was most attractive.

Another display was quite unique—at least I had never seen anything like it before. Costume jewellery in the very finest of leather—in all kinds of artistic colours and designs. I bought a beautiful

FORUMS GUARD AGAINST BECOMING CHIT CHAT, CARD PLAYING GROUPS

Four Forum reports in the county, Boyne, Ligny, Omagh and Zimmerman, agreed that the night classes in Milton supplied the needs of their group very satisfactorily, while Limestone, along with the majority of the groups, was more in favor of the old time short courses if they could be arranged in the community. S.S. No. 4 Esqueving felt the need of instruction in welding, mechanics and farm book-keeping as well as sewing and handicraft for the ladies.

Mount Pleasant favored the courses on a township basis in classes of carpentry and woodwork for men as well as basket and fabric weaving for the ladies. S.S. No. 7 Nassagaweya mentions, in addition to the list, horticulture and home nursing and all under O.A.C. supervision.

The second question was, "How do you think your group could guard against the danger of becoming merely a chit-chat or card playing group and failing to make use of the basic information that is available to them in broadcast, Farm Forum guide and other printed material?"

All groups agreed to specified time for discussion, not too long, and not too short, in order to give questions their due consideration. No. 7 Nassagaweya sums it all up very well, feeling the risk of turning the forums into a purely social gathering could be avoided by confining social activities to one night

orchid pin, in bronze and gold, that I am sure Daughter is going to love wearing on the lapel on her brown fur coat. I wouldn't have had any trouble in choosing one for my own use but I couldn't afford to be Santa Claus to myself.

In handwoven goods there were guest towels, place mats, scarves and most attractive evening bags in a pleasing combination of colours. Between us we came away with three bags and two towels.

Friend Phyllis was having a wonderful time—picking out costume jewellery, thinking about it afterwards, and then deciding a different colour would really be much better for her sister-in-law. It was changed with the best of good humour. Then she bought a bag for Aunt Susie... in a few minutes she was back again—she had to have one in blue for Pamela... and that one in coral shade would be grand for 13-year-old Bonnie!

Finally we had a cup of tea and made tracks for home, very well pleased with our purchases, and grateful for the initiative of the Arts and Crafts Guild who made our purchases possible.

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Santa Claus, Santa Claus is Address

"Santa Claus" is more than a popular name—it's a popular place at Christmas time. Post office officials in Santa Claus Ind., are used to overloaded sacks of mail during the pre-Christmas rush. Senders want their cards and gifts stamped with the famous Santa Claus postmark, plus thousands of wistful letters "Santa Claus, Santa Claus, Ind." And then there is the annual crop of "Santa Claus" letters written by youngsters in far away places, who haven't heard about Santa's permanent address in Indiana, U.S.A. At least a dozen versions of the time honored note-in-the-bottle story find their way into metropolitan newspapers every year. The notes, sealed in small bottles and securely tied to Christmas trees, are discovered by Christmas tree dealers, housewives, and even enlisted men at naval centres and military barracks: they come from places like Renous, a village in New Brunswick, boasting a total population of 85 inhabitants. The notes range from the wistful to the desperate, requesting such things as a mamma doll, a sled, a sweater, or a pair of overshoes.

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